

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis

Weekly Announcements

Sunday, Apr 5 – Saturday, Apr 11

Sunday Worship and all other events at the Fellowship remain **CANCELLED**. We're offering a **video-recorded service, sent out each week on UU-Announce**.

This week:

“Sacred Stewardship and Enduring Love in a time of Pandemic”

Revs. Israel Buffardi and Jill McAllister

Sometimes life changes in the blink of an eye. Sometimes change just keeps coming. More often than not, communities respond with love and care. Here we are, and that's what is happening at the Fellowship. This is what Sacred Stewardship means – to nurture and maintain a community through hard times.

A Time for All Ages story and craft will also be sent out on Sunday, and another one mid-week.

Where We Are This Week

Several people I've talked to this week are writing – journals, articles, poems, impressions of this new life, cards and letters, notes to themselves. Several others are writing songs. Lots of introverts are feeling relieved. (I've discovered that I am among them: I'm both an extrovert and an introvert, and did not realize until now how much my introverted side had been ailing.) There are pressures in families: too much togetherness for some, challenges to keep children happy and engaged, challenges to work and parent all at the same time. Birthdays and anniversaries are being celebrated (I heard of one family whose friends did a drive-by parade for a beloved elder's birthday). Loved ones are dying – not from the virus – and can't be visited. Babies are due anytime now, and some have just arrived. These are the stories of our times – the tip of the iceberg, no doubt.

Back to all of that writing – perhaps we should imagine an evening of sharing, where we could read our stories and poems and sing our songs to each other. Let me know if you're interested in something like that. Can anyone give some instruction in bodywork – or how to massage your own hands and feet, legs, and neck and shoulders? Giving good care and attention to our bodies is necessary at the moment. Perhaps we could devote one day on UU-Discuss to sharing tips on self-care. (UU-Discuss is a Fellowship e-mail chat, open to all Fellowship folks who want to share things with each other. Instructions for joining are on the UUFC website, click on “**Email List**”). We're still together, in so many ways. Thanks for all you are doing!

Sending love to all-- *Jill*

Opportunities to Help

More masks are needed – join the sewing brigade: An update from Elizabeth Wyatt, helping to coordinate this effort: “We have delivered over 3,000 masks to frontline workers just in the last 5 days! We could use donations of elastic and fabric. Donations go to 1333 NW 17th street in the carport where there are bins for sorting. If you have tried and found Facebook lacking, check out our new website at CorvallisSewingBrigade.org

UUFC

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Weekly Sunday Offerings have resumed.

Starting last week, we began gathering an offering for a local need, of which there are plenty. This week, we'll send support to the Corvallis School district for their project of maintaining weekly food support for families who depend on school breakfasts, lunches and weekend supplies. Contributions will help pay for food, being distributed to over 200 families. Donations of non-perishable foods are still being accepted at the school district headquarters, 1555 SW 35th St, Corvallis, Monday through Thursday, 9am – noon.

Contributions for the building of micro-shelters for homeless people totaled almost \$4000 last week. Thank you everyone!

*To make a donation to the weekly offering, go the UUFC web page and click on the "Donate" button.

The Benton County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is coordinating donations and volunteers in the community during the pandemic: They need you to use this new web portal to help them get their arms around the community's available resources. There's a lot of goodwill and positive energy out there. Let's get it pointed in the right direction: <https://bentoncounty.recovers.org/>

Fellowship Connections

Help is available: The ministers, members of the Fellowship Care and Support Team, and several counselors and psychologists are available to talk if you need us. Food and grocery delivery is available. Technical support for making phone and computer connections is available. Contact Jill or Israel, even if you're not sure what you need and you just want to talk: minister@uucorvallis.org, assistantminister@uucorvallis.org.

Wednesday, April 8 at 11:30 am: "Virtual Coffee Hour, with Sharing of Sorrows and Joys" Join in by Zoom, for greeting and centering together, with sharing of struggles and silver linings. The zoom link will be sent out via UU-Announce. We've made some technical adjustments which will hopefully make it easy for everyone to join in, the first time!

There are many ways to stay connected to Fellowship life:

~Look for the **Daily Practice** e-mail, sent out each weekday morning. Also, during the month of April, we'll be sharing a daily poem in honor of National Poetry Month. These poems are posted on the Fellowship website. Click on "**Get Involved**" to access the poems.

~Join Israel **weekdays** on UUFC Facebook live for the noon-time meditation / blessings.

~Join the **Wednesday** virtual coffee hour, 11:30 AM.

~Share the **mid-week and Sunday** Time for All ages stories and crafts.

~**Tuesdays**, Turning toward our Hearts, A time of music, poetry, and sharing with each other what is in our hearts. Led by Susan Sanford, Anna Coffman and Cliff Pereira on Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/173333179>

~**Wednesdays**, Evening Mindfulness Practice is live on Zoom from 7:00PM – 7:30PM in April. You may join on your computer or by phone call. Join about 5 minutes before to make sure your system is connected. This week's Zoom Meeting: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/2326020719>. Meeting ID: 232 602 0719. If you are new to Zoom email Patti ahead of time and she may be able to help you. Patricia White: minerva5cl@gmail.com.

~Keep all those chalice circles, book groups, friend groups, craft groups, going.

Stewardship: Annual Pledge Drive Begins Friday, April 10. Look for pledge materials and information coming to you early this week by e-mail, to be followed by links to complete your pledge by e-mail. Finance council members and others are available to talk you through online pledging as needed.

Birthday Club Thank-you's: Thanks to Elona Meyer for a recent contribution to the UUFC Birthday Club. You too can share celebrating another trip around the sun, your own, or someone else's. (We hear that Bud Ames is turning 85 this week!)

Congratulations! Bobbi and Don Alan Hall just celebrated their 60th anniversary. That's an inspiration.

The Great Fellowship Phone-a-Thon: This last week 42 volunteers contacted at least 416 households connected to the Fellowship in some way. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to be a caller and to all who responded. We hope you enjoyed the opportunity to check in. And thanks to those who requested more check-in calls – we'll keep them coming.

UUFC Emergency Aid Fund: Thanks to all who have made donations to this fund recently! The Emergency Aid Fund allows us to give financial aid, up to \$500 per family, especially now for those who might experience loss of income due shutdowns. Requests should be addressed to Jill McA, minister@uucorvallis.org. And, for all those who want to contribute to this fund to help provide aid during this time (thank you!) checks can be made to UUFC with Emergency Aid Fund on the memo line.

Things you might find helpful on the UUFC website: Did you know that instructions for getting logged in to InstantChurchDirectory.com can be found on the website, under the "Contact" tab? You can also sign up for UU-Announce and UU-Discuss by clicking on the "Email List" tab. We've also recently created a tab called "Zoom Instructions." And maybe you'd like to watch old sermons to pass the time? Click on "Worship" to find links to all sermons since January.

Updates on coronavirus and the Fellowship: Our highest priority continues to be finding as many ways as possible to stay connected and help each other. Up-to-date information is posted on the UUFC website, and on UU-Announce. Thanks to all who keep sharing information with us as we work to stay aware of developments.

Wider UU Connections

UUA Side with Love: We're asking you to side with the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe in Massachusetts as they fight for their sovereignty and their right to their Tribal lands. Late last Friday afternoon, the Tribe was contacted by the Bureau of Indian Affairs to inform them that the Secretary of the Interior has issued an order that will terminate the Tribe's ability to self-govern, strip the Tribe of their reservation lands, and effectively terminate them as a recognized people. The UUA has worked closely with the Mashpee Wampanoag in preparation for General Assembly 2020. Click the link below to act. [RISE IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE MASHPEE WAMPANOAG TRIBE](#)

The UU United Nations Office offers its annual Intergenerational Spring Seminar, *All In for Climate Justice: People, Power, Planet*, **Friday, April 17 - Saturday, April 18, 2020** will take place virtually rather than in-person due to the current threat posed by COVID-19. **Registration for all attendees (age 14+) is open!** Attendance is free, and we request a donation of \$20 per attendee so that we can pay our presenters. The Planning Committee is currently working on details for the schedule and programming which will be updated online as frequently as possible. Go to unitednations@uua.org to register, and for more information.

Perspectives on the Pandemic

New findings suggest that everyone should wear a mask when going out into public places, as masks can slow the spread of coronavirus from people who are carriers without symptoms. It's also becoming clear that physical distancing is making a difference in the rate of the spread of the virus. And, areas of outbreak in the United States are highlighting disparities in access to health care due economic and racial inequities.

On Grief and Grieving: https://hbr.org/2020/03/that-discomfort-youre-feeling-is-grief?fbclid=IwAR1zhsBjItAlh74nuj0jeoLli37jluE9_sU8CdOY8n2AImc4SGXJ2w

While staying at home, tour America from your couch, thanks to The Atlantic: Let your eyes wander the country when the rest of you can't. A photographer highlights the extraordinary beauty of each U.S. state. Click the link below. [Our "Fifty" project, from photo editor Alan Taylor](#)

The Oregon Health Authority has a comprehensive webpage outlining our local situation and efforts. You can sign up for a daily email from the by visiting this page: <https://govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-COVID-19>

Stewardship: Caring for a Community in Hard Times

Our annual stewardship pledge drive begins this week, amid the global pandemic. This is new for all of us! The pledge drive is our request for financial support from all members and friends, so that we can plan a budget for the next year of Fellowship life.

Some might say – “How can we ask for money at this time?” Others will say – “How can we not?” The Fellowship is affected like we all are, and the leadership needs to be able to understand what resources we can count on, and where we will have to make changes. No one is ever asked to do more than they can do. Everyone is always asked to do what they can. Everyone is asked to participate in the pledge drive, whatever your contribution may be.

Now, as perhaps never before, we begin to see what is truly of value in our lives. This is part of dedicating ourselves to Sacred Stewardship, for the Earth, for our community and for the Fellowship. Perhaps this is one of our most important thresholds now – to move from simply being “part of” the Fellowship, enjoying it when and as we want to, to considering it part of a life of Sacred Stewardship, a life that we are each an important part of, a commitment we each make. Please, join in, and make your online pledge.

Contact Us

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Office Hours: Currently Closed

Phone and e-mail are checked regularly.